

NOMINATION OF LIONEL SKIPWITH JOHNS TO
BE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

4. C 73/7: S. HRG. 103-365

omination of Lionel Skipwith Johns...

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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JULY 27, 1993
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Printed for the use of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation



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NOMINATION OF LIONEL SKIPWITH JOHNS TO BE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OF- FICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POL- ICY

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1993

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:45 a.m. in room SR-253, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Ernest F. Hollings (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Staff members assigned to this hearing: Patrick H. Windham and Rebecca A. Kojm, professional staff members; and Louis C. Whitsett, minority counsel, and Emily J. Gallop and Susan Adams, minority professional staff members.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR HOLLINGS

The CHAIRMAN. Now, Dr. Gibbons, I am glad you are here. Today's newspaper story on Government laboratories is exactly what we were talking about yesterday.

Dr. GIBBONS. Mr. Chairman, you are prescient as well as a good friend. I think the news this morning underscored our conversation yesterday.

The CHAIRMAN. And it is like I referred to our distinguished colleagues, Senator Bingaman and Craig Fields. And you know about this because you were our director at the particular time over the in the Office of Technology Assessment.

We are trying to make the best decision for the Government. As I understand the administration studied long and hard over the fall period before they really came to office, and were looking at different initiatives to try to get into the commercialization of our technology and to get competitive, and to really do something about it and not be in the position of picking winners and losers. And they saw the manufacturing centers, the Advanced Technology Program, and the entity there in Commerce was just exactly what they were looking for.

[The prepared statement of Senator Hollings follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR HOLLINGS

Today the committee is holding a hearing on the important nomination of Lionel "Skip" Johns to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy—OSTP.

Mr. Johns would bring to this job years of experience in Government service. He has worked at the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) for many years, under

OSTP Director Gibbons and other OTA directors, most notably as OTA's Assistant Director for Energy, Materials, and International Security. Dr. Gibbons has indicated that, if confirmed as an Associate Director of OSTP, Mr. Johns will focus on technology and space issues. These matters are of particular interest to this committee, and of importance to the future direction of U.S. technology competitiveness and scientific advancement.

I welcome the nominee to this confirmation hearing.

The CHAIRMAN. And now, really, with the leadership of Dr. Good and Dr. Prabhakar over there in Commerce, I am really enthused myself. And all I need from you and the White House is not just Skip Johns, but a decision so that we know where we are going and can pass these measures out and not get into an intramural dispute politically here on this score, because we have got to play catch up with our competition.

STATEMENT OF DR. JACK GIBBONS, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Dr. GIBBONS. Mr. Chairman, those are eloquent words and, I think, right on target. And I very much appreciate the chance to come with Skip Johns before you this morning.

I was immensely pleased by President Clinton's decision to nominate both Mary Good and Lionel Skipwith Johns, and Skip as Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy for the technology area of that office's work.

I would like to point out that Skip's wife, Mariby, and daughter Lindsay are in the audience this morning, too.

As you know and have well stated, science and technology is a centerpiece of the Clinton administration's concern about having an engine to increase our economic strength and competitiveness and to help in a productive way to enable the shift from a cold war dominated, Federal R&D investment to one that gives much more attention to the civil sector. And in the process of doing this, the President wants this office, OSTP, to be a highly capable mechanism for helping this change to take place.

We look forward to working with you, in particular in seeing that this happens and also the strengthening at the Department of Commerce, especially at Dr. Prabhakar's National Institutes for Science and Technology. Incidentally, she is also an alumna of the Office of Technology Assessment. She was there before she went to DARPA.

The requirements for Skip Johns' job—Associate Director of OSTP for Technology—are considerable. Obviously, an understanding of technology is needed, but also how ideas get transformed into products and services in our globally competitive economy are terribly important. And also, finally, the incumbent needs to know how to productively link public policies to the marketplace with a close regard not only to the opportunities but also to the limitations of the Federal role in that process.

In my 14 years with Skip Johns at OTA, and his prior experiences in several areas of the private sector, I believe he brings with him the kind of experiences that we need to help make these things happen.

So, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I come with Skip before you this morning.

The CHAIRMAN. Very good. I could have made the same introductory remarks myself, having worked with you and Mr. Johns, and we appreciate very much your appearance. I know how they demand you over at the White House, so you can excuse yourself if you will, but we are honored to have you, Dr. Gibbons, here.

Incidentally, environmental policy, like technology policy, is a good example of the political realities taking over, I got on here some 27 years ago and we had the Stratton Commission Report. We instituted a subcommittee, Oceans and Atmosphere. We had all the hearings and, cutting it short, instituted the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the seventies, Russell Train and myself were trying to get together the environment and the atmosphere into one entity. We were pretty well on course but got cut off with reelection into the Department of the Oceans and the Environment. That is what we were looking at at that particular time.

Now we have, with the political realities, a Department of Environment, and the only way we got it was, no, you are not going to do this; no, you are not going over to Commerce and that Department for the atmosphere. We got the old Environmental Science Services in the Department of Commerce with a Department of Environment over here. That is the kind of organizational divisions that we are talking about here as we move forward in technologies all over the lot, and then they wonder why they have to appear before so many subcommittees and get into these conflicts of handling legislation.

So, the best of environmental effort right now is in Commerce, but we have just got the Department of Environment with all kinds of restrictions thereon. And with you at the head now, you are going to have to coordinate that.

Thank you very much, Dr. Gibbons, for your appearance here today at the committee.

Dr. GIBBONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Johns, we welcome you and we would be glad to hear from you. We are delighted to have your wife and daughter, and welcome them to the committee.

STATEMENT OF LIONEL SKIPWITH JOHNS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR-DESIGNATE, OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Mr. JOHNS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am honored to appear before you today. I earnestly hope that if confirmed I will be able to put to the best possible use the experiences which I have had to date, and to measure up to the needs and expectations of the position to which I have been nominated by President Clinton.

I believe my experiences have prepared me well for the position of associate director of OSTP. They have given me a broad understanding of the influence of science and technology on national policy and have provided an understanding of the perspectives of the multiple stakeholders in national and international science and technology debates.

My experiences in the private sector have given me a clear understanding of the practical realities of the marketplace and an

abiding respect for the central role private enterprises play in securing our Nation's prosperity.

I have served for the past 18 years as an Assistant Director and, in the absence of the Director, as Acting Director of the Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress. OTA, as you well know, is a nonpartisan analytical agency of the Congress. It serves the Technology Assessment Board and the committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, providing alternate ways to resolve technology driven issues.

I take pride in the fact that I have helped Jack Gibbons turn OTA from a fledgling agency into one of the world's most respected analytical organizations. OTA is being emulated in many countries of the world.

My responsibilities at OTA are directly relevant to the responsibilities of the Associate Director for Technology at OSTP. As this committee well knows, OTA was asked by the Congress to keep abreast of an enormous range of issues in science and technology. I directed research and analysis of such areas as national security, space, technology transfer, trade, industrial technology and competitiveness, training and the quality of the workforce, industrial waste, energy, and materials.

Since I served with OTA during its formative years, I was able to contribute to the development of the processes and methodologies that became the norm for technology assessment in that agency and other assessment organizations. Important among these is OTA's use of ad hoc advisory panels composed of experts and representatives of stakeholder interest groups. Those panels were invaluable in helping OTA formulate and critique its studies. This approach to outreach will also be invaluable to President Clinton's goal of increasing private input to Government activities, and increased use of public-private research partnerships.

In addition to the experience provided by OTA, my U.S. Navy training in aeronautics and as an aviator, as well as my Navy experience in leadership, electronic systems, and operational responsibility serve as a continuing resource. Following my military career, I became a project engineer in electronic R&D—systems radar, sonar, and communications in the private sector. My experience with three pioneer companies in electronic systems broadened by knowledge base, taught me the realities of the bottom line, and provided an understanding of corporate culture and thinking.

Twelve years' experience in industry has given me an indepth understanding of how to develop stronger Government-industry R&D relationships. Just before joining OTA I spent 2 years working in an investment firm on mergers and acquisitions. There I learned the strengths and weaknesses of the equity and debt markets in this country and added practical experience to my educational background in corporate finance.

My combination of experiences provides an ability to speak the language of technology used by the diverse sectors of our economy. Analytical work at OTA taught me the need to seek out criticism in order to develop meaningful policy choices and equips me to understand problems and solutions.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with Dr. Gibbons to build a vigorous OSTP organization; one that can support the

President in seeing that America's technology helps foster America's economic prosperity and ensures unchallenged leadership in defense.

Before I close, I want to commend the committee for its leadership in promoting national progress through the support of various innovative ways to encourage technology, training, and new partnerships between the public and private sectors.

I also want to thank my wife, Mariby, and our daughter Lindsay, who are here today, and our two other children for their love and support. Thank you.

[The biographical data of Mr. Johns follows:]

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Name: Johns, Lionel Skipwith; address: 410 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Position to which nominated: Associate Director; date of nomination: May 20, 1993.

Date of birth: September 24, 1933; place of birth: St. Louis, MO.

Marital status: Married; full name of spouse: Mariby Burrowes Johns; names and ages of children: Lionel S. Johns, Jr., 34; Blair Johns Rushton, 30; and Lindsay Johns, 28.

Education: University of Virginia, 1951-55, B.S., Comm.

Employment: 1956-59, U.S. Navy, Carrier Pilot; 1959-61, Hazeltine Corp., Engineer; 1961-63, Magnavox Corp., ASW Systems Engineer; 1963-65, General Instrument Corp., Military Systems Liaison; 1965-71, Ocean Science and Engineering, Inc., Corporate Management; 1971-73, Alex Brown & Sons, Corporate Finance; 1973-74, Blue Knife Ships, Inc., President; 5/74-9/75, Office of Technology Assessment, Consultant; 9/75-4/78, Office of Technology Assessment, Manager, Energy Program; and 4/78-1/93, Office of Technology Assessment, Assistant Director.

Government experience: 1974-present, Office of Technology Assessment, Employee.

Political affiliations: None. Restrictions applied as a result of employment at a bipartisan agency of Congress.

Memberships: Fellow, American Academy for the Advancement of Science; Member, Council on Foreign Relations; and Member, Former President and Former Chairman Sea-Space Symposium.

Published writings: Attached is a list of reports prepared under my supervision. I provided various levels of direction of research, writing, and editing in the course of each project. Each report was a research effort of 6 months to 2 years in duration. They were completed with my approval and recommendation to the Director for publication.

[The list of reports referred to above may be found in the committee's files.]

The CHAIRMAN. Very, very good, Mr. Johns. No one has any more valued or broader experience in the various disciplines than you, and I know it as well as any because I have been with you for that 18 years of the Office of Technology of Assessment. You have been a tremendous help to this particular committee in all of those particular disciplines of space, technology, the oceans, atmosphere and everything else. The valued studies that the committee refers to have been made by you.

Therefore, I do not have any questions. I am leaving the record open for other members here. We will close it shortly so that we can get this to the floor. I know of no concern. In fact, I would take it that your confirmation would be a unanimous one also.

We appreciate your appearance. Do you wish to add anything?

Mr. JOHNS. No, sir. I would say that I did testify at that Stratton Commission back yonder in the late sixties.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, those were the good days, and we were trying to get a unified oceans and environment agency, but you see



how it has gone around. But then we came—you remember how they did away with the science advisor, got rid of Dr. David. So, Hubert Humphrey, Teddy Kennedy, and myself got together the Office of Technology Assessment because we had no place to go for good advice on science and technology.

Now we have got a place to go. We have got you back over in the White House. You are back in the saddle. Well, that is very good. We appreciate it.

Mr. JOHNS. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. The committee will be in recess subject to call of the Chair.

[Whereupon, at 11:55 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

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